DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 480 371 PS 031 480

AUTHOR	Beyers, Francine Simmons; Houston, Ronald L.
TITLE	Annual Report of School Climate and Student Conduct in Delaware Schools: 1999-2000.
INSTITUTION	Delaware State Dept. of Education, Dover.
REPORT NO	No-95-01-01-03-04
PUB DATE	2001-03-00
NOTE	47p.
AVAILABLE FROM	Delware Department of Education, Townsend Buildilng, 401 Federal Street, P.O. Box 1402, Dover, DE 19903-1402. Tel: 302-739-4601; Fax: 302-739-4654; Web site: http://www.doe.state.de.us.
PUB TYPE	Numerical/Quantitative Data (110) -- Reports - Descriptive (141)
EDRS PRICE	EDRS Price MF01/PC02 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS	Annual Reports; *Behavior Problems; Comparative Analysis; *Crime; Demography; Early Childhood Education; Elementary Secondary Education; *Expulsion; *Incidence; Pornography; Schools; Sexual Harassment; *Student Behavior; *Suspension; Trend Analysis; Weapons
IDENTIFIERS	*Delaware

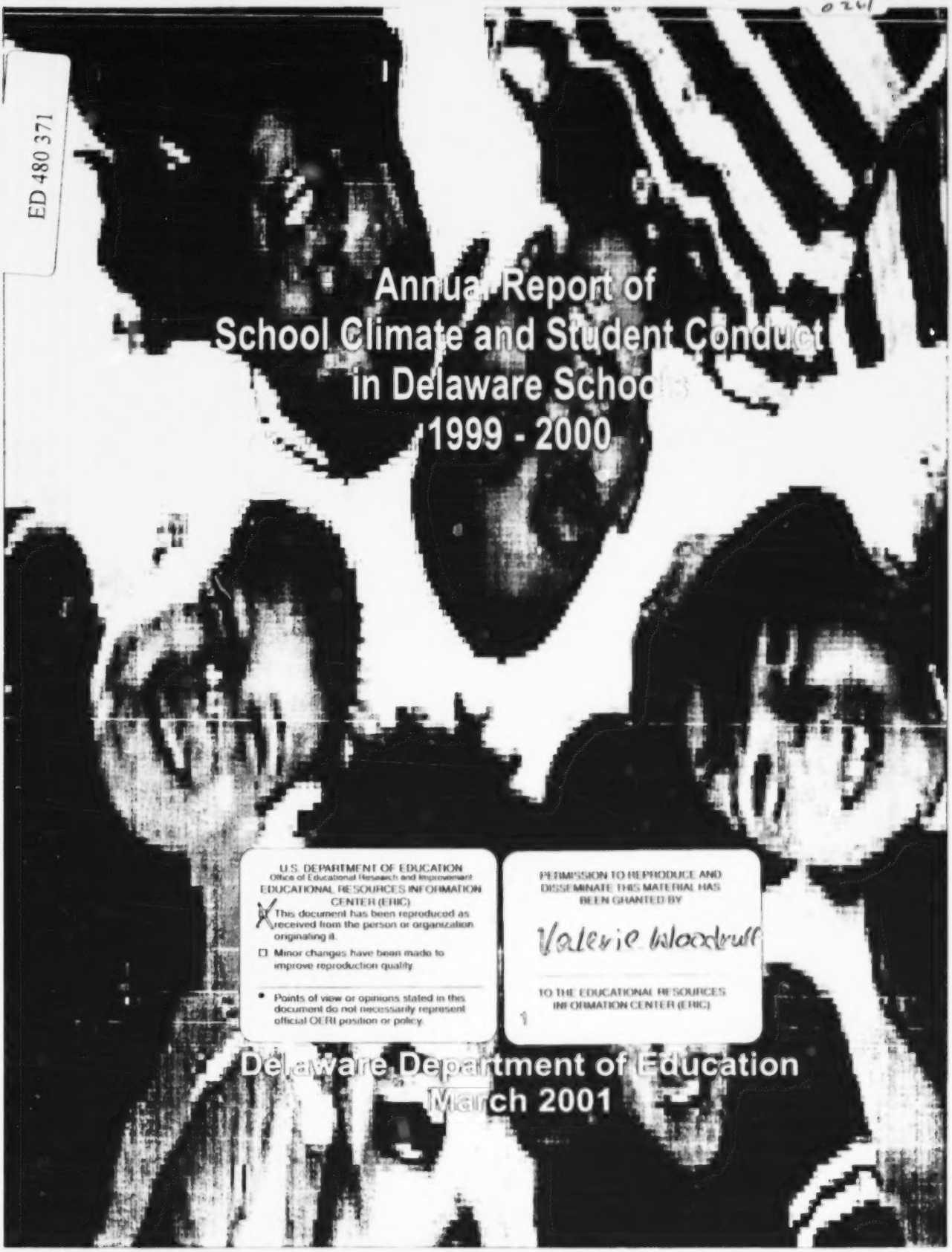
ABSTRACT

This report provides information on the conduct of students in Delaware public schools during the 1999-2000 school year. The focus of the analysis is on reported incidence of serious student conduct offenses as defined by Delaware Code or as defined by Delaware State Board of Education regulations and reported incidence of student suspensions and expulsions. The bulk of the report presents data tables in six areas: (1) number of reported serious student offenses and number of student offenders; (2) characteristics of most commonly reported serious student offenses; (3) characteristics of students most frequently reported for serious offenses; (4) number of suspensions and expulsions and number of students suspended/expelled; (5) infractions resulting in suspension/expulsion; and (6) characteristics of students most frequently suspended/expelled. Student conduct data were disaggregated by demographic populations and comparisons made with the previous school year. The data suggest that Delaware school districts are making progress in reducing incidents of serious student conduct. Most reported offenses were for assault, offensive touching, and possession of controlled unlawful substances. Most suspensions were for defiance of school authority, fighting, general disruption, and profanity. Groups having a higher incidence of serious behaviors/suspensions included ninth graders, males, and African-American students. The report concludes with recommendations regarding the need to develop more effective strategies for dealing with serious student offenses, to investigate causes of the high incidence of African-American males suspended for defiance of school authority and devise strategies to address this issue, and to make revisions in the reporting form to better ensure data integrity. Data summaries by district and school are appended. (KB)

Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made
from the original document.

PS PSTA 0241

ED 480 371



Annual Report of School Climate and Student Conduct in Delaware Schools 1999 - 2000

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)
X This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.
☐ Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality.
• Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official OERI position or policy.

PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE AND DISSEMINATE THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY
Valerie Woodruff
TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)
1

Delaware Department of Education
March 2001

PS 031480

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

OFFICERS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Valerie A. Woodruff
Secretary of Education

Jennifer W. Davis
Deputy Secretary of Education

Mark Dufendach, Ed.D., Associate Secretary
Robin Taylor, Associate Secretary
Nancy Wilson, Ph.D., Associate Secretary

Townsend Building
P.O. Box 1402
Dover, Delaware 19903-1402

Delaware State Board of Education

Joseph A. Pika, Ed.D., *President*

Jean W. Allen, *Vice President*

John W. Jardine, Jr.

Dennis J. Savage

Claibourne D. Smith, Ph.D.

Mary B. Graham, Esq.

Valerie A. Woodruff, *Executive Secretary*

Doc. No. 95-01/01/03/04

The Department of Education does not discriminate in employment or educational programs, services or activities based on race, color, national origin, sex, age, or handicap in accordance with state and federal laws. Inquiries should be directed to the Department of Education, Administrative Services Branch, PO Box 1402, Dover, Delaware 19903, (302) 739-4604.

Annual Report of
School Climate and Student Conduct

Delaware Department of Education

1999-2000

This report was prepared by Francine Simmons Beyers, Consultant
with the assistance of staff in the
School Improvement Work Group

Ronald L. Houston, Director

For further information, please contact:

Ronald A. Meade, Education Associate
Department of Education
P.O. Box 1402
Dover, DE 19903-1402
(302) 739-3743

TABLE OF CONTENTS

BACKGROUND	**1**
REPORT PURPOSE, DESIGN, AND GUIDING QUESTIONS	**2**
THE 1999-2000 DELAWARE STUDENT POPULATION	**3**
FINDINGS	**4**
RECOMMENDATIONS	**30**
REFERENCES	**32**
APPENDIX	**33**

Annual Report of School Climate and Student Conduct
Delaware Department of Education
1999-2000

This report, previously published as the *School Climate and Discipline Final Report*, provides information on the conduct of students in Delaware public schools during the 1999–2000 school year. The focus is on three sources of data: 1) reported incidence of serious student conduct as defined by Delaware Code; 2) reported incidence of serious student conduct as defined by Delaware State Board of Education regulations; and 3) reported incidence of student suspensions and expulsions.* Although an annual conduct report has been developed since 1993, this year the reporting format has been revised to focus on specific questions of interest.

The following sections of the report provide background information on student conduct reporting in Delaware; the report purpose, design, and guiding questions; the Delaware student population; findings; conclusions; and some implications and recommendations based on these findings.

Background

In July 1993, Governor Thomas R. Carper signed into law House Bill 85 (HB 85), which amended Title 14, Delaware Code, § 4112. HB 85 required that evidence of certain student behaviors occurring in Delaware schools be immediately reported to the Delaware Department of Education and to the Youth Division of the Delaware State Police. These behaviors included:

- Violent Felony against Student, School Volunteer, or Employee
- Assault against Student, School Volunteer, or Employee
- Unlawful Sexual Contact against Student, School Volunteer, or Employee
- Offensive Touching against Employee
- Terroristic Threatening against Employee
- Sexual Harassment against Student
- Possession and/or Concealment of a Weapon/Dangerous Instrument
- Possession of Controlled Unlawful Substance

In July 1994, the Delaware State Board of Education expanded the reporting requirements of Title 14, Delaware Code, § 4112 to include additional student behaviors. These behaviors, listed in Appendix D of the Delaware Handbook for K–12 Education (1994), include:

- Pornography/Exhibitionism/Peeping
- Criminal Mischief
- Evidence of Organized Gambling
- Offenses Involving School Property
- Felony Theft Offenses
- Forgery Offenses
- Fraud Offenses
- Tampering with Public Records

* *All information collected for this report is time sensitive and may be inconsistent with other reports.*

- Computer/Recorded Sound Offenses
- Disorderly Conduct/Fighting
- Offensive Touching (non employee)
- Terroristic Threatening (non employee)
- and others

The Delaware Department of Education developed guidelines to assist school districts in identifying, reporting, and addressing serious disciplinary offenses. These guidelines form the basis of a technical assistance manual provided to school districts (see Student Conduct Reporting, Technical Assistance Manual, 2000–2001 School Year).

The Delaware House of Representatives later enacted HB 322, which further amended Title 14, Delaware Code, § 4112, to clarify a number of issues related to serious student conduct, including suspensions, expulsions, and the provision of alternative services. Guidelines specified that whenever a police agency determined that probable cause exists to believe that a crime has been committed, the principal is required to file a written report with the superintendent, who then is required to file a written report of the incident with the Department of Education. Specific regulations were also developed to define appropriate disciplinary procedures for students with disabilities (IDEA) and to ensure that their right to a free and appropriate public education is protected.

Report Purpose, Design, and Guiding Questions

Purpose

The purpose of this annual report of student conduct is three-fold. First, the report provides documentation and analysis of incidence of serious student conduct offenses that respond to state and federal reporting requirements. Second, these findings inform the Delaware constituency as to the impact of federal and state programs on school safety and student conduct. And third, the report will provide districts and schools with information to support their planning and ongoing decision-making on issues related to student and school safety and school improvement, thus enabling them to be proactive in preventing serious student conduct especially among subgroups of the student population.

Design

In order to determine if districts are meeting their mission of addressing the needs of all students, to the extent possible, student conduct data were disaggregated by demographic populations. Aggregation provides information as to whether school processes are impacting all groups of students in the same way. The demographic variables used for aggregation were those available and include: gender, race/ethnicity, district, grade level/age, limited English proficiency, special education, and low income (free or reduced lunch).

Although maintaining longitudinal data is important, the evaluation only compares 1999–2000 data with that of the previous school year. Data are not compared with all available years as

longitudinal analysis beyond two years is not the purpose of this annual report. Also, the body of the report contains mostly summary tables. More detailed tables, such as those containing data from individual schools, are included in the Appendix.

Guiding Questions

The following five questions formed the focus of the report:

1. Were there decreases in: a) the number of reported serious student offenses, and b) the number of student offenders in Delaware school districts from 1998–1999 to 1999-2000?

2. What are the characteristics of the most commonly reported serious student offenses (e.g., by crime and by victim) in Delaware school districts?

3. What are the characteristics of students most frequently reported for serious offenses?

4. Were there decreases in: a) the number of reported suspensions and expulsions, and b) the number of students suspended and expelled in Delaware school districts from 1998–1999 to 1999-2000?

5. What infractions most resulted in suspensions and expulsions?

6. What are the characteristics of students most frequently suspended and expelled?

The 1999-2000 Delaware Student Population

The following section of the report disaggregates Delaware student enrollment by grade, race/ethnicity, and other demographics. The Delaware student enrollment, including both regular and special education students, for 1999–2000, was as follows:

Grades	% of Enrollment	(no. of students)
Pre–K & K	7.3%	(8,253)
1–3	24.0%	(27,304)
4–8	39.3%	(44,605)
9–12	29.4%	(33,436)
TOTAL	**100.0%**	**(113,598)**

The Delaware student enrollment by county for 1999–2000, was as follows:

County	% of Enrollment	(no. of students)
New Castle	58%	(66,235)
Kent	22%	(24,731)
Sussex	19%	(21,432)
Charter	1%	(1,200)
TOTAL	**100%**	**(113,598)**

The Delaware student enrollment by race/ethnicity for 1999-2000, was as follows:

Race/Ethnicity	% of Students	(no. of students)
American Indian	0.2%	(250)
Asian American	2.1%	(2,426)
Hispanic	5.4%	(6,140)
African American	30.6%	(34,744)
Caucasian	61.7%	(70,038)
TOTAL	**100.0%**	**(113,598)**

The Delaware student enrollment by other salient student characteristics for 1999-2000, was as follows:

Other Characteristics	% of Students
Receiving Free/Reduced Lunch	32.7%
Special Education	11.1%
Limited English Proficiency	1.7%

Findings

The findings presented in this section relate to each of the five questions listed on the previous page. In the tables, yellow is used to highlight titles, summaries, and salient findings. Red is used to highlight most striking findings.

Question 1: Were there decreases in: a) the number of reported serious student offenses, and b) the number of student offenders in Delaware school districts from 1998-1999 to 1999-2000?

The number of Student Conduct (SC) offenses and State Board of Education (SBE) offenses for 98-99 and 99-00 is presented in Table 1. Also included in the table are the number of offenders (duplicated and unduplicated), the percent of the student population involved, and the change from year-to-year.

As the data in Table 1 indicate:

- overall, there were 108 fewer reports filed in 99-00 than in 98-99; this reflects 172 fewer reports of SC offenses, 62 additional reports of offenses SBE offenses, and 2 incomplete reports filed.

- in 99-00, there were 143 more offenders (unduplicated) than in 98-99, an increase of .1% of the student population.

Table 1. Number of SC and SBE Offenses and Number and Percent of Offenders for 1998-1999 and 1999-2000.

SC & SBE Incidence	1998-1999	1999-2000	98/99- 99/00 Change
Number of SCR Reports	1535	1363	– 172
Number of SBE Reports	347	409	+62
Unknown/Incomplete	0	2	+2
TOTAL (Reports filed)	1882	1774	– 108
Number of Offenders*	1872	2099	+227
Number of Offenders (unduplicated)	1678	1821	+143
Percent of Population (unduplicated)	1.5%**	1.6%***	+0.1

* includes a duplicated count for students reported for multiple offenses
** based on a student population of 112,090
*** based on a student population of 113,598

Table 2 summarizes the number of SC and SBE offenses for 98-99 and 99-00 by district and county along with the number and percent change from 98-99 to 99-00. It should be noted that no offenses were reported in the multi-district categories in 99-00. As the table illustrates,

- New Castle County, with 58% of the state's enrollment, had 1,086 incidents or 61% of the state's reported SCR and State Board of Education incidents. Overall, 5 out of 6 districts had decreases in the percent (not number) of incidents, and 1 district had an increase in the percent of incidents. District changes in New Castle County ranged from -.8% in Appoquinimink School District to +.7% in New Castle County VoTech School District.

- Kent County, with 22% of the state's enrollment, had 350 incidents or 20% of the state's reported SC and SBE incidents. Overall, 3 out of 6 districts had decreases in the percent (not number) of incidents, 2 districts had increases in the percent of incidents, and the percent did not change for one district. District changes in Kent County ranged from -.5% in Lake Forest School District to +.5% in Smyrna School District.

- Sussex County, with 19% of the state's enrollment, had 311 incidents or 18% of the state's reported SC and SBE incidents. Overall, 3 out of 7 districts had decreases in the percent of incidents, and 4 districts had increases in the percent of incidents. District changes in Sussex County ranged from -.5 in Seaford School District to +2.5% in Sussex Technical School District.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Table 2. Number of SC and SBE Offenses by District and County for 98-99 and 99-00.

District	No. (%) of SC & SBE Offenses 1998-1999	1999-2000	99/99– 99/00 Change
New Castle County			
Appoquinimink	73 (1.8%)*	50 (1.0%)	– 23 (– 0.8%)
Brandywine	182 (1.7%)	154 (1.4%)	– 28 (– 0.3%)
Christina	339 (1.8%)	296 (1.3%)	– 43 (– 0.5%)
Colonial	305 (3.2%)	311 (2.9%)	+6 (– 0.2%)
New Castle VoTech	44 (1.2%)	66 (1.9%)	+22 (+ 0.7%)
Red Clay	220 (1.5%)	202 (1.3%)	– 18 (– 0.2%)
Multi-district	8	7*	– 1
Total New Castle County	1,171	1,086	– 85
Kent County			
Caesar Rodney	115 (1.9%)	115 (1.7%)	0 (0%)
Capital	59 (1.0%)	60 (1.0%)	+1 (0%)
Polytech	7 (0.7%)	10 (0.9%)	+3 (+0.2%)
Lake Forest	45 (1.4%)	30 (0.9%)	– 15 (– 0.5%)
Milford	64 (1.9%)	69 (1.8%)	+5 (– 0.1%)
Smyrna	40 (1.3%)	61 (1.8%)	+21 (+0.5%)
Multi-district	29	5*	– 24
Total Kent County	359	350	– 9
Sussex County			
Cape Henlopen	39 (1.0%)	60 (1.4%)	+21 (+0.4%)
Delmar	6 (0.8%)	8 (1.0%)	+2 (+0.2%)
Indian River	110 (1.6%)	89 1.1%)	– 21 (– 0.5%)
Laurel	27 (1.4%)	26 (1.2%)	– 1 (– 0.2%)
Seaford	70 (2.0%)	58 (1.5%)	– 12 (– 0.5%)
Sussex Technical	6 (0.5%)	35 (3.0%)	+29 (+2.5%)
Woodbridge	8 (0.5%)	17 (0.9%)	+9 (+0.4%)
Multi-district	14	18*	+4
Total Sussex County	280	311	+31
Other (Charter School of Wilmington, Positive Outcomes, Groves Schools, Alternative/Other)	72	27	– 45
TOTAL STATE	1,882 (1.7%**)	1,774 (1.6%***)	– 108 (– 0.1%)

* % of the district's population

** based on a student population of 112,090

*** based on a student population of 113,598

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Question 2: What are the characteristics of the most commonly reported serious student offenses (e.g., by crime and by victim) in Delaware school districts?

Table 3 summarizes the frequency of SC and SBE offenses for the 1999-2000 school year. As indicated in the table:

- The two offenses with the highest incidence were: assault (24.7%), followed by offensive touching (14.2%), and possession of uncontrolled unlawful substance (13.4%).
- The next most frequent offenses were: disorderly conduct/fighting (9.7%), terroristic threatening (9.5%), and weapon possession (7.4%).
- 76.8% of the incidents fell under SC; 23.1% were SBE offenses.

Table 3. Type of SC and SBE Offenses for 1999-2000.

Type of Offense	No. of Incidences	% of Total Incidences
Assault (against student/employee/volunteer)	439	24.7%
Offensive Touching (against employee)	251	14.2%
Possession of Controlled Unlawful Substance	238	13.4%
Terroristic Threatening	169	9.5%
Weapon Possession/Concealment	132	7.4%
Unlawful Sexual Contact (against student/employee)	57	3.2%
Violent Felony	55	3.1%
Sexual Harassment	22	1.2%
TOTAL SC OFFENSES	1363	76.8%
Disorderly conduct/fighting	172	9.7%
Offensive touching (non-employee)	85	4.8%
Terroristic threatening (non-employee)	67	3.8%
Bomb threat	13	.7%
Criminal mischief	9	.5%
Felony theft offenses	8	.5%
Pornography/exhibitionism/peeping	8	.5%
Offenses involving school property	3	.2%
Other	44	2.5%
TOTAL SBE OFFENSES	409	23.1%
Unknown	2	.1%
TOTAL OFFENSES	1774	100%

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

In 1999-2000, 78% of the 993 SC reports (which exclude weapon and drug possession offenses) identified one or more victims. Table 4 below summarizes these victim data and compares them to 1998-1999. As the table indicates:

- The percent of SCR offenses listing "other students" as victims (47%) increased 13%; the percent listing "employee" or "volunteer" as victims (40%) increased 2%.

- In 99-00, 22% of the SC Reports did not list a victim as opposed to 28% in 98-99.

Table 4. Victims of SC Offenses for 1998-1999 and 1999-2000.

Victims of SCR Offenses	No. (%) SCR 1998-1999	No. (%) SCR 1999-2000
Other student(s)	521 (34%)	465 (47%)*
Employee/volunteer	584 (38%)	400 (40%)
Other	Not available	42 (4%)
No victim(s) reported	28%	214 (22%)

* Percents based on 993 SC Reports (excluding drug possession and weapon possession offenses) and do not total 100% as offenses can have multiple victims.

Table 5 summarizes the reports of student possession and/or concealment of weapons and dangerous instruments for 1999-2000; only a partial breakdown of weapon offenses is available for 1998-1999. As the table indicates:

- The total number of reported incidents of possession or concealment of a dangerous weapon or instrument decreased from 185 to 132.

- In 99-00, almost half of the reported incidents involved a knife (47%), followed by "other" (30%), and razor blade/box cutter (13%).

Table 6 summarizes the reports of student possession of controlled unlawful substances for 1999-2000. Comparison data are included for 98-99. As the table indicates:

- The number of reported incidents of possession of controlled unlawful substances decreased from 245 to 238.

- Most offenses involved marijuana (62%), an increase of 7% from 98-99; alcohol offenses decreased from 20% to 17%.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

- Two other offenses had increases – possession of prescription drugs increased 5% and possession of drug paraphernalia increased 2%.

- Two other offenses had decreases – possession of look-alike substances decreased 2% and possession of cocaine/powder substance decreased 3%; also, reports involving the "other" category decreased 5%.

Table 5. Student Possession and/or Concealment of Weapons/Dangerous Instruments for 1998-1999 and 1999-2000.

Weapon/Dangerous Instrument	No. (%) SC Offenses 1998–1999	No. (%) SC Offenses 1999–2000
Knife	93 (50%)	62 (47%)
Razor blade/box cutter	– *	17 (13%)
Explosive, incendiary, or poison gas	– *	8 (6%)
Firearm (handgun/rifle/shotgun)	9 (5%)	6 (5%)
Other	– *	39 (30%)
TOTAL	185 (100%)	132 (101%)

* data not available

Table 6. Student Possession of Controlled Unlawful Substances for 1998-1999 and 1999-2000.

Controlled Unlawful Substance	No. (%) SC Offenses 1998-1999	No. (%) SC Offenses 1999-2000
Marijuana	135 (55%)	147 (62%)
Alcohol	50 (20%)	41 (17%)
Prescription drug	8 (3%)	19 (8%)
Drug paraphernalia	13 (5%)	16 (7%)
Look-alike substance	13 (5%)	7 (3%)
Cocaine/powder substance	9 (4%)	3 (1%)
Other	17 (7%)	5 (2%)
TOTAL	245 (99%)	238 (100%)

Tables 7 and 8 summarize data on the location of the reported offenses for 1998-1999 and 1999-2000. As the data illustrate:

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

- The majority of offenses occurred inside the school building (67%), followed by on the school grounds (17%), and on the bus (10%); this pattern was true for both years with only minor (1% or 2%) differences (see Table 7).

- Almost half of the offenses occurring inside the school building took place in the classroom (49%), which was a 6% decrease from 98-99 (although it is not clear if 98-99 gymnasium data were included in the classroom category); almost one-quarter of the offenses took place in the hall/stairway (24%). The pattern of locations is similar for both years (see Table 8).

Table 7. Location of SC and SBE Offenses for 1998-1999 and 1999-2000.

Location	No. (%) incidents 1998-1999	No. (%) incidents 1999-2000
Inside the school building	**1276 (68%)**	**1190 (67%)**
On the school grounds	341 (18%)	293 (17%)
On the bus	151 (8%)	174 (10%)
At the bus stops	29 (2%)	29 (2%)
Off school grounds	43 (2%)	24 (1%)
Other	42 (2%)	62 (3%)
Unknown	–	2 (<1%)
TOTAL	1882 (100%)	1774 (100%)

Table 8. Location of SC and SBE Offenses Within the School Building for 1998-1999 and 1999-2000.

Location	% incidents 1998-1999*	No. (%) incidents 1999-2000
Administrative Office	9%	97 (8%)
Cafeteria	7%	82 (7%)
Classroom	**55%**	**583 (49%)**
Gymnasium	–	92 (8%)
Hall/Stairway	24%	288 (24%)
Restroom	4%	48 (4%)
TOTAL	99%	1190 (100%)

* numbers of incidences were not available for 1998-1999, only percents

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Question 3: What are the characteristics of students most frequently reported for serious offenses?

Tables 9 through 12 summarize data on the characteristics of the students reported for SC and SBE offenses in 1999-2000. The numbers in each table may include multiple offenses for individual students. Comparisons cannot be made with last year as these data for 1998-1999 were presented in the School Climate and Discipline Final Report (1999) by incident, not by offender, and incidents may involve multiple offenders with different characteristics.

The data in Table 9 on the grade levels of the offenders show:

- 9th graders were the most frequent offenders (17.5%), followed by 8th graders (15.4%), 7th graders (15.0%), and 10th graders (12.4%).
- Kindergarteners were the least frequent offenders (.3%), followed by 2nd graders (1.4%), other (ungraded, non-pupils) (1.6%), and 1st graders (2.3%).

Table 9. SC and SBE offenders by Grade Level for 1999-2000.

Grade	Frequency (%) of Offences 1999-2000
K	7 (.3%)
1	49 (2.3%)
2	30 (1.4%)
3	82 (3.9%)
4	80 (3.8%)
5	103 (4.9%)
6	176 (8.4%)
7	315 (15.0%)
8	323 (15.4%)
9	367 (17.5%)
10	260 (12.4%)
11	179 (8.5%)
12	95 (4.5%)
Other (ungraded/ non-pupils)	33 (1.6%)
TOTAL	2099 (99.9%)

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

The data in Table 10 on the age of the offenders show:

- 13 to 15 year olds were the most frequent offenders (42%) followed by 16 to 21 year olds (32%).
- 4 to 6 year olds were the least frequent offenders (< 1%), followed by unknown (2%), and 7 to 9 year olds (7%).

Table 10. SC and SBE Offenders by Age for 1999-2000.

Age Range	Frequency (%) of Offenses 1999–2000
4 – 6	8 (< 1%)
7 – 9	138 (7%)
10 – 12	372 (18%)
13 – 15	881 (42%)
16 – 21	667 (32%)
Unknown	33 (2%)
TOTAL	2099 (101%)

The data in Table 11 on the gender of the offenders show that males were offenders almost three times as often as females (73% vs. 26%).

Table 11. SC and SBE Offenders by Age for 1999-2000.

Gender	Frequency (%) of Offenses 1999–2000
Female	540 (26%)
Male	1542 (73%)
Unknown	17 (1%)
TOTAL	2099 (100%)

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

The data in Table 12 on the race/ethnicity of the offenders show:

- African-Americans, who make up 30.6% of the student population, were the most frequent offenders (53%), followed by Caucasians (42%).
- The least frequent offenders were American Indian/Alaskan Natives (< 1%), followed by Asian/Pacific Islanders (1%), and Hispanics (4%).

Table 12. SC and SBE Offenders by Race/Ethnicity for 1999-2000.

Race/Ethnicity	Frequency (%) of Offenses 1999–2000
Asian/Pacific Islander	13 (1%)
American Indian/Alaskan Native	4 (< 1%)
Hispanic	83 (4%)
Caucasian	873 (42%)
African American	1109 (53%)
Unknown	17 (1%)
TOTAL	2099 (101%)

The data in Table 13 on the Special Education classification of the offenders show:

- Special Education Students, who make up 11.1% of the student populations, were offenders 30% of the time; Non-Special Education students were offenders 68% of the time; and non-students were offenders 2% of the time.

Table 13. SC and SBE Offenders by Special Education for 1999-2000.

Student Classification	Frequency (%) of Offenses 1999–2000
Physically/Hearing/Speech Impaired	66 (3%)
Mentally Disabled (Educable, Trainable, Severe)	97 (5%)
Learning Disabled	355 (17%)
Seriously Emotionally Disturbed	116 (6%)
TOTAL (Special Education)	634 (30%)
Non-Student	33 (2%)
TOTAL (Non-Special Education)	1432 (68%)

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

- The most frequent Special Education offenders were classified as Learning Disabled (17%), followed by Seriously Emotionally Disturbed (6%), Mentally Disabled (5%), and Physically Impaired/Hearing Impaired/Speech Impaired (3%).

Question 4: Were there decreases in: a) the number of reported suspensions and expulsions, and b) the number of students suspended and expelled in Delaware school districts from 1998-1999 to 1999-2000?

There are 43 offenses, which can result in a student being suspended or expelled from school. These infractions are listed below, along with their codes:

Code	Infractions resulting in suspensions and/or expulsions	Code	Infractions resulting in suspensions and/or expulsions
1	Disruption	23	Stealing or possession/transport of stolen goods
2	Profanity	24	Vandalism
3	Inflammatory actions	25	Reckless driving
4	Truancy	26	Arson
5	Lateness (to class or school)	27	Weapon
6	Class cutting	28	Assault sexual, attempted rape, or rape
7	Leaves school grounds without permission	30	Fail to report for disciplinary action
8	Smoking	31	Academic cheating
9	Loitering	32	False fire alarm
10	Defiance of school authority	33	Forgery
11	Bus disruption	34	Harassment
12	General disruption	35	Off-campus conduct
13	Trespassing	36	Tobacco violation
14	Gambling	37	Terroristic threatening
15	Indecent propositions	38	Unauthorized use of technology
16	Simple assault	39	Conspiracy to violate student codes
17	Offensive touching	40	Assault with weapon
18	Fighting	41	Breaking and entering
19	Assault/battery	42	Bomb threat
20	Drug use or possession	99	Other
21	Drug distribution		
22	Extortion		

Tables 14-16 summarize suspension and expulsion data for 1999-2000 and present comparisons with 1998-1999 data. In interpreting these data, it is important to note that the length of a student's suspension or expulsion can vary, and thus one year's data may include students carried over from a previous year.

The data in Table 14 show:

- The percent of suspensions was 24.7% in 99-00, which was a .6% decrease from the previous year (25.3%).
- The number of unduplicated suspensions for 99-00 was 12,689; these data were not available for 98-99.
- The percent of expulsions was .1% in 99-00, which was a .1% decrease from the previous year (.2%); however, because expulsions are for different lengths of time, some may have begun their term during the previous school year.
- There were 145 incidences of suspended driver's licenses in 99-00, almost 2 ½ times that of 98-99; the length of license suspension is 180 days, thus some of the 145 suspensions may have been carried over from the previous school year.
- There were 771 alternative school placements in 99-00, an increase of 111 from 98-99.

Table 14. Number and Percent of Suspensions, Expulsions, Drivers' License Suspensions, and Alternative Placements for 1998-1999 and 1999-2000.

Suspension/Expulsion*	1998-1999	1999-2000	+/– change
Total Unduplicated Suspensions	not available	12,689	–
Total Suspensions	28,348	28,087	– 261
% of Suspensions	25.3%**	24.7%***	– 0.6%
Total Expulsions	200	119	– 81
% of Expulsions	0.2%**	0.1***	– .1%
Total Driver's License Suspensions	57	145	+ 88
Total Alternative School Placements	660	771	+111

* Length of driver's license suspensions and/or expulsions may vary, thus one year's data may include students carried over from a previous year.

** based on a student population of 112,090

*** based on a student population of 113,598

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Tables 15 and 16 summarize the number and percent of student suspensions and expulsions for 98-99 and 99-00 by district and county along with the number and percent change from 98-99 to 99-00. As the suspension data in Table 16 indicate:

- New Castle County, with 58% of the state's enrollment, had 21,432 suspensions or 76% of the state's reported suspensions. Overall, 5 out of 8 districts had decreases in the percent (not number) of suspensions, and 3 districts had an increase in the percent of suspensions. District changes in suspensions from 98-99 to 99-00 ranged from -6.5% at New Castle County VoTech School District to +1.6% in Red Clay School District.

- Kent County, with 22% of the state's enrollment, had 3,506 suspensions or 13% of the state's reported suspensions. Overall, 6 out of 8 districts had decreases in the percent of suspensions, and 2 districts had an increase in the percent of suspensions. District changes in suspensions from 98-99 to 99-00 ranged from -10.9% at Polytech School District to +3.3% in Lake Forest School District

- Sussex County, with 19% of the state's enrollment, had 3,149 suspensions or 11% of the state's reported suspensions. Overall, 6 out of 7 districts had decreases in the percent of suspensions, and 1 district had an increase in the percent of suspensions. District changes in suspensions from 98-99 to 99-00 ranged from -28.4% in Laurel School District to +0.9% in Delmar School District.

Table 15. Student Suspensions by District and County for 1998-1999 and 1999-2000.

District	No. (%) of Suspensions 1998-1999	1999-2000	98/99– 99/00 Change
New Castle County			
Appoquinimink	591 (14.2%)*	562 (11.5%)	– 29 (-2.7%)
Brandywine	3,722 (34.8%)	4,047 (36%)	+ 325 (+ 1.2%)
Christina	5,956 (32%)	5,987 (29.3%)	+ 31 (– 2.7%)
Colonial	3,957 (41.0%)	4,466 (41.8%)	+ 509 (+ 0.8%)
New Castle County Vo–Tech	590 (16.6%)	45 (10.1%)	– 245 (– 6.5%)
Red Clay	5,348 (36.5%)	5,988 (38.1%)	+ 640 (+ 1.6%)
Charter School of Wilmington	29 (5.3%)	21 (3.1%)	– 8 (– 2.2%)
East Side Charter	1 (1.6%)	0	– 1 (– 1.6%)
Multi-District	17	16	– 1
Total New Castle County	20,211	21,432	+1,221
Kent County			
Caesar Rodney	962 (15.7%)	733 (11.2%)	– 229 (– 4.5%)
Capital	1,378 (23.5%)	1,255 (20.2%)	– 123 (– 3.3%)
Polytech	30 (2.8%)	26 (2.3%)	– 4 (– 0.5%)
Lake Forest	282 (8.7%)	415 (12%)	+ 133 (+ 3.3%)
Milford	345 (10%)	208 (5.4%)	– 137 (– 4.6%)
Smyrna	611 (19.4%)	737 (21.6%)	+ 126 (+ 2.2%)
Positive Outcomes	44 (73.3%)	41 (65.1%)	– 3 (– 8.2%)
Campus Community	2 (0.6%)	0	– 2 (– 0.6%)
Multi-District	200	91	– 109
Total Kent County	3,854	3,506	– 348
Sussex County			
Cape Henlopen	1,047 (27.2%)	881 (20.8%)	– 166 (– 6.4%)
Delmar	68 (9.3%)	80 (10.2%)	+ 12 (+ 0.9%)
Indian River	1,302 (19%)	1,066 (13.9%)	– 236 (– 5.1%)
Laurel	629 (33.1%)	100 (4.7%)	– 529 (–28.4%)
Seaford	768 (21.8%)	581 (15%)	– 187 (– 6.8%)
Sussex Technical	94 (8.2%)	69 (5.9%)	– 25 (– 2.3%)
Woodbridge	360 (21.5%)	360 (19.6%)	0 (– 1.9%)
Multi-District	15	31	+ 16
Total Sussex County	4,283	3,149	– 1,134
TOTAL STATE	28,348 (25.3%)**	28,087 (24.7%)***	– 261

* % of the district's enrollment as of 9/30/99
** based on a student population of 112,090
*** based on a student population of 113,598

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

As the expulsion data in Table 16 indicate (numbers rather than percents are used as the incidence of expulsions is small):

- New Castle County, with 58% of the state's enrollment, had 69 expulsions or 58% of the state's reported expulsions. Overall, this county had a decrease of 18 expulsions with only Red Clay School District reporting an increase (+17) in the number of expulsions.

- Kent County, with 22% of the state's enrollment, had 14 expulsions or 12% of the state's reported expulsions. Overall, this county had a decrease of 16 expulsions with only Polytech School District reporting an increase (+2) in the number of expulsions.

- Sussex County, with 19% of the state's enrollment, had 36 expulsions or 30% of the state's reported expulsions. Overall, this county had a decrease of 50 expulsions with only Sussex Technical School District (+15) and Seaford School District (+5) reporting increases in the number of expulsions.

Table 16. Student Expulsions Summary by District and County for 1998-1999 and 1999-2000.

District	No. of Expulsions 1998-1999	1999-2000	98/99 - 99/00 Change
New Castle County			
Appoquinimink	19	10	- 9
Brandywine	6	4	- 2
Christina	18	8	- 10
Colonial	26	13	- 13
New Castle County VoTech	0	0	0
Red Clay	17	34	+17
Charter School of Wilmington	1	0	- 1
East Side Charter	0	0	0
Total New Castle County	87	69	- 18
Kent County			
Caesar Rodney	0	0	0
Capital	5	0	- 5
Polytech (*Does not include H.C.*)	0	2	+2
Lake Forest	6	2	- 6
Milford	5	2	- 3
Smyrna	11	8	- 4
Positive Outcomes	0	0	0
Campus Community	0	0	0
Total Kent County	27	14	- 16
Sussex County			
Cape Henlopen	31	0	- 31
Delmar	0	0	0
Indian River	34	6	- 28
Laurel	0	0	0
Seaford	1	6	+5
Sussex Technical	3	18	+ 15
Woodbridge	17	6	- 11
Total Sussex County	86	36	- 50
TOTAL STATE	200	119	- 81

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Question 5: What infractions most resulted in suspensions and expulsions?

Tables 17 and 18 summarize the frequency of infractions resulting in suspensions and expulsions. The exact frequency is listed in parentheses for each infraction.

As indicated by the suspension data summary in Table 17:

- Defiance of school authority was the most frequently reported infraction resulting in suspension (5,600 suspensions), followed by fighting (3,704 suspensions), general disruption (2,502 suspensions), profanity (2,216 suspensions), and offensive touching (2,018 suspensions).

- The next most common infractions were: failure to report for disciplinary action (1,699 suspensions), inflammatory actions (1,572 suspensions), class cutting (1,478 suspensions), disruption (1,303 suspensions), other (1,157 suspensions), and tobacco violation (666 suspensions).

- 24 different infractions were reported to result in suspensions between 1 and 300 times; 6 were reported to result in suspensions between 301 and 600 times.

As indicated by the expulsion data summary in Table 18:

- Drug use or possession was the most frequently reported infraction resulting in expulsion (38 expulsions) followed by assault/battery (19 expulsions).

- 3 infractions were reported to result in expulsions between 11 and 15 times – terroristic threatening (11 expulsions), bomb threats (12 expulsions), and weapons (15 expulsions); 12 infractions were reported to result in expulsions between 1 and 5 times.

Table 17. Frequency of Infractions Resulting in Suspensions for 1999 – 2000.

Reported frequency of infraction	Type of infraction (number of reported suspensions)	
1 – 300 times	Gambling (1) Academic cheating (3) Reckless driving (4) Assault sexual, attempted rape, or rape (11) Trespassing (20) Arson (23) Bomb threat (29) False fire alarm (41) Harassment (93) Truancy (103) Smoking (147) Weapon (224)	Assault with weapon (2) Drug distribution (4) Conspiracy to violate student codes (9) Extortion (20) Assault/battery (21) Forgery (28) Off-campus conduct (30) Unauthorized use of technology (82) Loitering (103) Bus disruption (120) Vandalism (168) Indecent propositions (232)
301 – 600 times	Lateness to class or school (377) Drug use or possession (414) Simple assault (505)	Stealing or possession/transport of stolen goods (383) Terroristic threatening (436) Leaving school grounds without permission (539)
601 – 900 times	Tobacco violation (666)	
901 – 1200 times	Other (1157)	
1201 – 1500 times	Disruption (1303)	Class cutting (1478)
1501 – 1800 times	Inflammatory actions (1572)	Fail to report for disciplinary action (1699)
1801 – 2100 times	Offensive touching (2018)	
2101 – 2400 times	Profanity (2216)	
2401 – 2700 times	General disruption (2502)	
2701 – 3000 times	–	
3001 – 3300 times	–	
3301 – 3600 times	–	
3601 – 3900 times	Fighting (3704)	
3901 – 4200 times	–	
4201 – 4500 times	–	
4501 – 4800 times	–	
4801 – 5100 times	–	
5101 – 5400 times	–	
5401 – 5700 times	Defiance of school authority (5600)	

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Table 18. Frequency of Infractions Resulting in Expulsions for 1999 – 2000.

Reported frequency of infraction	Type of infraction (number of reported expulsions)
1 – 5 times	Arson (1) Assault with weapon (1) Defiance of school authority (1) Indecent propositions (1) Inflammatory actions (1) Truancy (1) Vandalism (1) Drug distribution (2) Off-campus conduct (2) Fighting (3) Offensive touching (5) Simple assault (5)
6 – 10 times	–
11 – 15 times	Terroristic threatening (11) Bomb threat (12) Weapon (15)
16 – 20 times	Assault/battery (19)
21 – 25 times	–
26 – 30 times	–
31 – 35 times	–
36 – 40 times	Drug use or possession (38)

Table 19 presents the mean number of days students in grades K – 12 were suspended for each infraction. The number of incidents is included in parentheses. As the data show:

- The infractions which had the longest mean suspensions (7.1 to 7.5 mean days) were drug distribution, with 4 incidents and assault with a weapon, with 2 incidents.
- The infractions which had the next longest mean suspensions (5.1 to 5.5 mean days) were off-campus conduct with 30 incidents and drug use or possession, with 414 incidents.
- Most types of infractions resulted in 1.6 to 2.0 mean days suspension.

Table 20 summarizes the modal or most typical number of days suspended for each infraction (keyed to Table 19). As the data show:

- Most infractions typically resulted in a 1-day suspension (26 infractions).
- 7 infractions most frequently resulted in 5-day suspensions, 4 infractions most frequently resulted in 2-day suspensions, and 1 infraction most frequently had both 5 and 10-day suspensions.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Table 19. Mean Days Suspended by Infraction, Grades K – 12, for 1999-2000

Mean Days	Infraction (number of incidents)	
.6 – 1.0	Academic cheating (3)	Gambling (1)
1.1 – 1.5	Lateness (to class or school) (377) Fail to report for disciplinary action (1699)	Reckless Driving (4) Tobacco violation (666)
1.6 – 2.0	Class cutting (1478) Loitering (103) Forgery (28) Profanity (2216) Smoking (147)	Defiance of school authority (5600) General disruption (2502) Trespassing (20) Leaves school grounds without permission (539) Truancy (103)
2.1 – 2.5	Disruption (1303) Other (1157) Inflammatory actions (1572)	Offensive touching (2018) Stealing or possession/transport of stolen goods (383) Vandalism (168)
2.6 – 3.0	Unauthorized use of technology (82) Conspiracy to violate student codes (9) Bus disruption (120) **	Harassment (93) *** Fighting (3704) ***
3.1 – 3.5	Assault/battery (21) ***** Indecent propositions (232) ***	Terroristic threatening (436)
3.6 – 4.0	Extortion (20) ** Arson (23) *****	Assault sexual, attempted rape, or rape (11) ***** Bomb threat (29) **
4.1 – 4.5	Simple assault (505) ***** Weapon (224) *****	False fire alarm (41) *****
4.6 – 5.0	–	
5.1 – 5.5	Off-campus conduct (30) **********	Drug use or possession (414) *****
5.6 – 6.0	–	
6.1 – 6.5	–	
6.6 – 7.0	–	
7.1 – 7.5	Drug distribution (4) **	Assault with weapon (2)

Asterisks refer to modes in Table 20; infractions without asterisks have a mode of 1 day; off-campus conduct is bi-modal (5 days and 10 days).

Table 20. Number of Infractions and Typical Number of Days Suspended (mode), Grades K – 12 for 1999-2000.

Mode	Number of Infractions
1 day	26 infractions
2days**	4 infractions
3 days***	3 infractions
4 days****	–
5 days*****	7 infractions
6 days	–
7 days	–
bi-modal (5 & 10 days)**********	1 infraction

Asterisks are keyed to infractions in Table 19.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Question 6: What are the characteristics of students most frequently suspended and expelled?

Tables 21 through 27 summarize data on the characteristics of the students reported for suspensions and expulsions in 1999-2000. The data in Table 21 on the grade level of students suspended and expelled show:

- Grade 9 had the highest incidence of suspensions (21.7%), followed by grades 7 (18.4%), grade 8 (16.1%), and grade 10 (12.3%); this pattern was identical for unduplicated suspensions as well.

- Grade 9 had the highest incidence of expulsions (29.4%), followed by grade 10 (22.7%), grade 11 (14.3%), and grade 7 (11.8%).

Table 21. Suspensions and Expulsions by Grade Level for 1999-2000.

Grade	No. of Suspensions (Unduplicated)	% of all Suspensions	No. of Expulsions	% of all Expulsions
K	13 (10)	0.1%	0	–
1	188 (111)	0.7%	0	–
2	330 (181)	1.2%	0	–
3	608 (320)	2.2%	2	1.7%
4	730 (426)	2.6%	1	0.8%
5	1,056 (609)	3.8%	3	2.5%
6	2,211 (1,090)	7.9%	3	2.5%
7	5,186 (2,043)	18.4%	14	11.8%
8	4,520 (1,915)	16.1%	9	7.6%
9	6,115 (2,430)	21.7%	35	29.4%
10	3,464 (1,655)	12.3%	27	22.7%
11	2,267 (1,141)	8.1%	17	14.3%
12	1,422 (771)	5.1%	8	6.7%
TOTAL	28,110 (12,702)	100.1%	119	100.1%

The data in Table 22 on the gender of the students suspended and expelled show:

- The percent of suspensions of male students was almost 2 ½ times that of females (70.3% versus 29.6%); the percent of unduplicated male suspensions was 2 times that of females.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

- The percent of expulsions of male students was almost 2 ½ times that of females (71.4% versus 28.6%).

Table 22. Suspensions and Expulsions by Gender for 1999-2000.

Gender	No. of Suspensions (Unduplicated)	% of all Suspensions	No. of Expulsions	% of all Expulsions
Female	8,317 (4,115)	29.6%	34	28.6%
Male	19,759 (8,568)	70.3%	85	71.4%
Unknown	11 (6)	< 0.1%	0	–
TOTAL	28,087 (12,689)	99.9%	119	100%

The data in Table 23 on the LEP (Limited English Proficiency) status of the students suspended and expelled show:

- 1.1% of the suspensions were of students classified as LEP.
- No students expelled were classified as LEP.

Table 23. Suspensions and Expulsions by LEP Status for 1999-2000.

LEP Status	No. of Suspensions (Unduplicated)	% of all Suspensions	No. of Expulsions	% of all Expulsions
LEP	312 (163)	1.1%	0	0
Not LEP	27,764 (12,520)	98.9%	119	100%
Unknown	11 (6)	< 0.1%	0	–
TOTAL	28,087 (12,689)	100%	119	100%

The data in Table 24 on the low income status of the students suspended and expelled show:

- Over half of the suspensions (52.6%) were of students classified as low income; 47.4% were not low income.
- 39.5% of the expulsions were of students classified as low income; 60.5% were not low income.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Table 24. Suspensions and Expulsions by Low Income Status for 1999-2000

Low Income Status*	No. of Suspensions (Unduplicated)	% of all Suspensions	No. of Expulsions	% of all Expulsions
Low Income	14762 (6186)	52.6%	47	39.5%
Not Low Incom.	13314 (6497)	47.4%	72	60.5%
Unknown	11(6)	< 0.1%	0	–
TOTAL	28,087 (12,689)	100%	119	100%

* Determined by free/reduced lunch status.

The data in Table 25 on the race/ethnicity of the students suspended and expelled show:

- A little more than half of the suspensions were of African American students (54.0%); 39.0% were of Caucasian students; 6.1% were of Hispanic students; less than one percent were of American Indian/Alaskan Native (.3%) or Asian/Pacific Islander (.5%) students.

- African American students suspended had the highest rate of repeat suspensions (2.4), followed by American Indian/Alaskan Native (2.3), Hispanic (2.2), Caucasian (2.0), and Asian/Pacific Islander (1.9).

- Half of the expulsions were of Caucasian students (50.4%); 45.4% were of African American students; 3.4% were of Hispanic students; less than one percent were of American Indian/Alaskan Native (.8%) students; no Asian/Pacific Islander students were expelled during the 1999-2000 school year.

Table 25. Suspensions and Expulsions by Race/Ethnicity for 1999-2000.

Race/ Ethnicity	No. of Suspensions (Unduplicated)	% of all Suspensions	No. of Expulsions	% of all Expulsions
American Indian/ Alaskan Native	90 (40)	0.3%	1	0.8%
African American	15,168 (6,448)	54.0%	54	45.4%
Asian/ Pacific Islander	148 (78)	0.5%	0	–
Hispanic	1,723 (777)	6.1%	4	3.4%
Caucasian	10,947 (5,340)	39.0%	60	50.4%
Unknown	11 (6)	< 0.1%	0	0
TOTAL	28,087 (12,689)	99.9%	119	100%

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

The data in Table 26 summarize the Title I status of the students suspended and expelled in 1999-2000. It should be noted that in many Delaware districts, Title I applies only to the elementary grades. As indicated in Table 26:

- 3% of all suspensions were of students classified as Title I; 97% were not classified as Title I.
- 3.4% of all expulsions were of students classified as Title I; 96.6% were not classified as Title I.

Table 26. Suspensions and Expulsions by Title I Status for 1999-2000.

Title I Status	No. of Suspensions (Unduplicated)	% of all Suspensions	No. of Expulsions	% of all Expulsions
Not Title I	27,252 (12,190)	97.0%	115	96.6%
Title I	824 (493)	3.0%	4	3.4%
Unknown	11 (6)	< .01	0	–
TOTAL	28,087 (12,689)	100%	119	100%

The data in Table 27 on the Special Education status of the students suspended and expelled show:

- Almost one-quarter (24%) of all suspensions were of students classified as Special Education; 76% were not classified as Special Education.
- The special education classification with the highest percent of all suspensions was Learning Disabled (17.2%).
- 13.5% of all expulsions were of students classified as Special Education; 86.6% were not classified as Special Education.
- The special education classification with the highest percent of all expulsions was Learning Disabled (10.1%).

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Table 27. Suspensions and Expulsions by Special Education Status for 1999-2000.

Student Classification	No. of Suspensions (Unduplicated)	% of all Suspensions	No. of Expulsions	% of all Expulsions
Physically/Hearing/Speech Impaired	485 (209)	1.7%	0	–
Mentally Disabled (Educable, Trainable, Severe)	750 (340)	2.7%	2	1.7%
Learning Disabled	4,820 (1953)	17.2%	12	10.1%
Seriously Emotionally Disturbed	665 (243)	2.4%	2	1.7%
TOTAL Special Education	6,720 (2745)	24%	16	13.5%
TOTAL Not Special Education	21,367 (9944)	76%	103	86.6%
TOTAL	28,087 (12689)	100%	119	100.1%

Conclusions

The following conclusions relate to each of the six questions that formed the focus of the report.

1. Were there decreases in: a) the number of reported incidences of serious student offenses, and b) the number of student offenders in Delaware school districts from 1998-1999 to 1999-2000?

According to district reports, there was an overall decrease in the number (– 108) and percent (– .1%) of incidents of serious student offenses from 1998-1999 to 1999-2000. With the exception of Sussex Technical School District, the changes within each district were less than one percent; Sussex Technical School District had a 2.5% increase in offenses. Of the 7 districts with increases, 1 was located in New Castle County, 2 in Kent County, and 4 in Sussex County. One county (Sussex County) had small increases in the percent of offenses. One district had no change and the remaining districts and two counties had small decreases in the percent of serious student offenses.

According to district reports, there was an overall increase in the number of student offenders (+143) during the 1999-2000 school year. This change is an increase of +.1% of the student population.

2. What are the characteristics of the most commonly reported serious student offenses (e.g., by victim and by crime) in Delaware school districts?

According to district reports, the most common offenses were: assault (24.7%) and offensive touching (14.2%), followed by possession of uncontrolled unlawful substance (13.4%), disorderly conduct/ fighting (9.7%), terroristic threatening (9.5%), and weapon possession (7.4%). The number of reports of drug possession decreased from 245 to 238. Most drug possession reports involved marijuana (62%), which had a 7% increase from the previous year; or alcohol (17%), which had a 3% decrease. The number of reports of weapon possession

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

decreased from 185 to 132, and consistent with the previous year's findings, almost half of these incidents involved a knife.

In 1999-2000, 78% of the SC Reports identified one or more victims, an increase of 6% from the previous year. There was a 13% increase in the percent of SCR offenses reporting a student to be a victim and a 2% increase in the percent of offenses reporting an employee or volunteer to be a victim. The reports also indicated that most offenses occurred inside the school building (67%), followed by on the school grounds (17%), or bus (10%). Of the offenses occurring in the building, most took place in the classroom (49%) or hall/stairway (24%).

3. What are the characteristics of students most frequently reported for serious offenses?

The most frequent offenders were 9th graders (17.5%), followed by 8th graders (15.4%), 7th graders (15.0%), and 10th graders (12.4%). The most frequent offenders were 13 to 15 year-olds (42%); followed by 16 to 21 year-olds (32%), and 10 to 12 year-olds (18%). Males were offenders almost three times as often as females (73% versus 26%). The offenders were African American 53% of the time, Caucasian 42% of the time, and Hispanic 4% of the time. Special Education students were offenders 30% of the time; the most frequent Special Education offenders were classified as Learning Disabled (17%).

4. Were there decreases in: a) the number of reported suspensions and expulsions, and b) the number of students suspended and expelled in Delaware school districts from 1998-1999 to 1999-2000?

According to district reports, in 1999-2000 student suspensions decreased .6% from 25.3% to 24.7%; the percent of expulsions decreased .1% from .2% to .1%. There was much variability within each district; changes in percents of suspensions ranged from -28.4 in Laurel School District to +3.3 in Lake Forest School District. The range of change in the number of expulsions was from – 31 in Cape Henlopen School District to +17 in Red Clay School District. (Data on the number of unduplicated suspensions for 1998-1999 is not available, thus change in the number of students suspended rather than the number of suspensions could not be determined.) There were increases in both the number of Driver's License suspensions (+88) and the number of alternative school placements (+111).

5. What infractions most resulted in suspensions and expulsions?

According to district reports, defiance of school authority was the most frequent infraction resulting in student suspension (5,600 suspensions), followed by fighting (3,704 suspensions), general disruption (2,502 suspensions), profanity (2,216 suspensions), and offensive touching (2,018 suspensions). Most types of infractions resulted in 1.6 to 2.0 mean days suspension, although the longest suspensions (7.1 to 7.5 mean days) were for drug distribution with 4 incidents, and assault with a weapon with 2 incidents; followed by 5.1 to 5.5 mean days suspension for off-campus conduct (30 incidents), and drug use or possession (414 incidents). Also, 26 of the 42 infractions most typically resulted in a 1-day suspension.

The most frequently reported infractions resulting in student expulsion were drug use or possession (38 expulsions) and assault/battery (19 expulsions). Three infractions resulted in expulsions between 11 and 15 times – terroristic threatening (11 expulsions), bomb threats (12 expulsions), and weapons (15 expulsions).

6. What are the characteristics of students most frequently suspended and expelled?

The grade level with the most frequent suspensions was grade 9 (21.7%), followed by grades 7 (18.4%), grade 8 (16.1%), and grade 10 (12.3%). Males were most frequently suspended (70.3%) as were students from low-income families (52.6%); Title I students were rarely suspended (3%) as were LEP students (1.1%). In terms of ethnicity, 54% of the suspensions were of African-Americans; 39% were of Caucasians; 6.1% were of Hispanics; and few were American Indian/Alaskan Natives (.3%) or Asian/Pacific Islander (.5%). 24% percent of the suspensions were of Special Education students; the most frequently suspended were classified as Learning Disabled (17.2%).

The grade level with the highest percent of reported expulsions was grade 9 (29.4%), followed by grade 10 (22.7%), grade 11 (14.3%), and grade 7 (11.8%). Most expulsions were of male students (71.4%), 39.5% were of students from low-income families, a small percent were of Title I students (3.4%), and none were of LEP students. In terms of ethnicity, half of the expulsions were of Caucasians (50.4%); 45.4% were of African Americans; 3.4% were of Hispanics; few were American Indian/Alaskan Natives (.8%); and no students expelled were Asian/Pacific Islanders. 13.5% of the expulsions were of Special Education students; the most frequently expelled were classified as Learning Disabled (10.1%).

Recommendations

Some general implications and recommendations based on the findings and conclusions are summarized below.

The findings highlighted in this report suggest Delaware school districts are making progress in reducing incidents of serious student conduct. The report should be used by districts and schools in developing plans and implementing activities to address their goals and objectives for school climate.

Most reported offenses were for assault, offensive touching, and possession of controlled unlawful substance, and most suspensions were for defiance of school authority, fighting, general disruption, and profanity. Clearly, more effective strategies are needed in dealing with these behaviors. The continued focus on violence prevention is needed, along with a focus on creating a positive environment where students are connected to one another and value cooperation and sharing. To the extent possible, consequences should be natural, logical, and instructive.

When conduct data are disaggregated, it becomes clear that all students are not responding the same to district and state policies regarding student behavior. Sub-groups having a higher incidence of serious behaviors and suspensions include 9th grade students, males, and African-American students. The high incidence of African American males suspended for defiance of school authority suggests a need for schools to investigate causes of this offense and devise strategies to address it. The distinct needs of these higher incidence groups must be addressed at the school and classroom levels, as well as staff perceptions about the adequacy of their own training and available time for addressing these students' needs. It might be informative to assess and compare student and teacher perceptions of the climate of the school by administering a needs assessment survey at the end of the school year.

Students having reported offenses should be closely monitored in order to help them to develop and maintain positive behaviors. Academic data should be monitored as well, as failing students may be more apt to be involved in incidents of serious inappropriate conduct (i.e., for recognition).

In order to help ensure the integrity of the data, feedback on the report form and reporting process should be obtained from interviews with a sample of district staff who are responsible for completing the Student Conduct Report Forms. There were many discrepancies in the 1999-2000 data that made it difficult to develop meaningful summaries and conclusions. For example, it is difficult to interpret reports of 13 reported bomb threats, 29 suspensions for bomb threats, and 12 expulsions for bomb threats.

The data in this report suggest a number of specific revisions in the reporting form, including:

- Revision of the response options when the "other – 9999" category listed on the form is frequently selected, e.g., 30% of the reports of weapons/dangerous instruments had the subcode "other" selected to describe the weapon.

- Redefinition of the categories that appear to have overlapping options, e.g., "assault offenses" category, or "offenses involving sexual contact" category.

- Removal of the options from the form if they are not selected by districts.

- Realignment of the suspension and expulsion offense categories so that they are congruent.

References

Delaware Department of Education. (1994). **Delaware Handbook for K–12 Education, Appendix D.** Dover, DE: Delaware Department of Education.

Delaware Department of Education. (1999). **School Climate and Discipline, Final Report: 1998-1999 Academic Year.** Dover, DE: Delaware Department of Education.

Delaware Department of Education. (2000). **Student Conduct Reporting, Technical Assistance Manual, 2000–2001 School Year.** Dover, DE: Delaware Department of Education.

Appendix

LEGEND

ES	Elementary School
MS	Middle School
HS	High School
IS	Intermediate School
ILC	Intensive Learning Center
ECC	Early Childhood Center
KC	Kindergarten Center

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Student Conduct Summary
by District and School for 1999-2000

District Code	School Code	School Name	# of SC Incidents	# of SBE Incidents	# of Suspensions	# of Students Suspended	# of Expulsions
Appoquinimink							
29	10	Silver Lake ES	-	1	13	8	-
29	11	Cedar Lane ES	1	-	12	7	-
29	14	Townsend ES	1	-	28	19	-
29	16	Redding IS	2	-	86	61	-
29	17	Middletown MS	13	1	220	108	-
29	18	Middletown HS	23	4	203	133	10
29	995	Unknown	-	1	-	-	-
		District Totals	**40**	**7**	**562**	**336**	**10**
Brandywine							
31	110	Brandywood ES	1	-	-	-	-
31	112	Carrcroft ES	-	-	-	-	-
31	116	Darley Road ES	-	1	1	1	-
31	124	Forwood ES	-	-	6	4	-
31	128	Lancashire ES	-	-	8	6	-
31	130	Lombardy ES	-	-	-	-	-
31	132	Maple Lane ES	-	-	-	-	-
31	151	Claymont ES	12	-	19	17	-
31	156	Harlan ES	1	-	83	54	-
31	170	duPont ES	6	2	159	115	1
31	174	Hanby MS	29	10	714	237	-
31	176	Mt. Pleasant ES	7	-	3	3	-
31	178	Springer MS	30	1	465	183	-
31	180	Talley MS	17	-	328	144	-
31	190	Brandywine HS	14	1	531	229	1
31	194	Concord HS	8	-	714	255	1
31	196	Mt. Pleasant HS	13	1	1016	342	1
31	510	Bush School	-	-	-	-	-
31	519	duPont (A.I.) Hospital	-	-	-	-	-
		District Totals	**138**	**16**	**4047**	**1590**	**4**

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Student Conduct Summary
by District and School for 1999-2000

District Code	School Code	School Name	# of SC Incidents	# of SBE Incidents	# of Suspensions	# of Students Suspended	# of Expulsions
Caesar Rodney							
10	610	Frear ES	4	-	-	-	-
10	612	Welch ES	-	-	-	-	-
10	614	Arnold ES	1	-	-	-	-
10	615	Simpson ES ILC	1	-	4	3	-
10	616	Stokes ES	2	1	15	11	-
10	617	Caesar Rodney HS ILC	1	2	16	11	-
10	618	Star Hill ES	-	-	8	6	-
10	620	Simpson ES	2	1	-	-	-
10	621	Postlethwait MS	10	15	29	19	-
10	622	Brown ES	1	1	10	8	-
10	625	Fifer MS	5	7	102	53	-
10	626	Caesar Rodney HS	22	39	557	259	-
10	628	DAFB MS	1	1	10	10	-
10	629	DAFB Off Base	2	-	-	-	-
10	630	Charlton School	-	-	1	1	-
10	995	Unknown	-	-	2	2	-
		District Totals	**52**	**67**	**754**	**383**	**0**
Cape Henlopen							
17	559	Career Opportunities	7	1	2	1	-
17	710	Brittingham ES	-	-	12	7	-
17	712	Shields ES	-	1	1	1	-
17	720	Milton MS	9	2	199	69	-
17	722	Rehoboth ES	3	2	11	7	-
17	724	Lewes MS	11	2	127	63	-
17	726	Cape Henlopen HS	6	3	529	187	-
17	728	Sussex Consortium	7	3	12	7	-
17	995	Unknown	7	5	-	-	-
		District Totals	**50**	**19**	**893**	**342**	**0**
Capital							

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Student Conduct Summary
by District and School for 1999-2000

District Code	School Code	School Name	# of SC Incidents	# of SBE Incidents	# of Suspensions	# of Students Suspended	# of Expulsions
13	632	East Dover ES	-	-	11	8	-
13	634	South Dover ES	-	-	14	10	-
13	635	North Dover ES	-	-	2	1	-
13	636	Washington ES	-	-	-	-	-
13	638	Fairview ES	-	-	11	6	-
13	640	Hartly ES	-	-	-	-	-
13	642	Towne Point ES	-	-	26	10	-
13	644	Central MS	19	4	379	221	-
13	646	Wm Henry MS	6	1	114	65	-
13	648	Dover HS	22	8	698	331	-
13	649	Capital ILC	-	-	-	-	-
13	650	Kent County Community	1	-	-	-	-
		District Totals	**48**	**13**	**1255**	**652**	**0**
Christina							
33	310	Brookside ES	-	-	23	16	-
33	312	Marshall ES	-	-	9	7	-
33	314	Jones ES	5	1	18	14	-
33	318	Downes ES	3	-	8	6	-
33	320	Gallaher ES	-	-	19	14	-
33	322	Leasure ES	-	-	35	24	-
33	324	Maclary ES	6	1	5	4	-
33	326	McVey ES	6	3	29	15	-
33	330	Smith ES	1	-	11	10	-
33	332	West Park Place ES	1	2	2	2	-
33	334	Wilson ES	-	-	1	1	-
33	339	Brader ES	3	-	31	19	-
33	350	Bancroft ES	1	-	80	53	-
33	352	Bayard ES	9	2	11	10	-
33	354	Drew/Pyle ES	32	-	21	18	-
33	356	Elbert/Palmer ES	10	2	74	45	-

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Student Conduct Summary
by District and School for 1999-2000

District Code	School Code	School Name	# of SC Incidents	# of SBE Incidents	# of Suspensions	# of Students Suspended	# of Expulsions
33	358	Pulaski ES	1	-	13	10	-
33	362	Stubbs ES	12	2	39	34	-
33	372	Gauger/Cobb MS	25	1	803	319	-
33	374	Kirk MS	16	-	899	324	-
33	376	Shue/Medill MS	28	-	1143	357	-
33	390	Christiana HS	22	3	1017	425	2
33	392	Glasgow HS	31	2	591	314	3
33	394	Newark HS	36	6	782	337	3
33	512	REACH/CBIP	-	-	-	-	-
33	537	Alternative Program	22	-	323	108	-
33	538	Statewide Autistic Program	-	-	-	-	-
33	540	Sterck School	2	-	8	8	-
33	995	Unknown	1	-	-	-	-
		District Totals	**273**	**25**	**5995**	**2494**	**8**
Colonial							
34	410	Downie ES	5	-	10	4	-
34	412	Castle Hills ES	28	2	30	17	-
34	414	Delaware City ES	3	-	3	2	-
34	416	MacDonough ES	2	1	2	2	-
34	418	Pleasantville ES	4	1	10	8	-
34	420	Wilmington Manor ES	-	-	1	1	-
34	450	Colwyck ES	10	4	74	44	-
34	452	McCullough ES	7	1	199	94	-
34	456	Eisenberg ES	3	10	89	50	-
34	465	King ES	11	-	152	90	-
34	470	Bedford MS	27	6	686	327	2
34	472	New Castle MS	35	10	470	184	-
34	474	Read MS	29	10	759	340	-
34	490	Penn HS	43	12	1762	739	11
34	514	Leach	5	-	8	5	-

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Student Conduct Summary
by District and School for 1999-2000

District Code	School Code	School Name	# of SC Incidents	# of SBE Incidents	# of Suspensions	# of Students Suspended	# of Expulsions
34	522	Colonial ILC	14	33	219	58	-
		District Totals	**226**	**90**	**4474**	**1965**	**13**
Delmar							
37	730	Delmar Sr. HS	3	-	55	44	-
37	733	Delmar Jr. HS	5	-	25	19	-
		District Totals	**8**	**0**	**80**	**63**	**0**
Indian River							
36	689	Allen Alternative School	7	-	19	12	4
36	690	Long Neck ES	2	-	12	11	-
36	692	North Georgetown ES	4	1	18	16	2
36	732	Frankford ES	-	4	14	9	-
36	734	Georgetown ES	-	-	6	6	-
36	736	Baltimore ES	-	-	4	2	-
36	738	East Millsboro ES	-	1	11	10	-
36	740	Showell ES	-	-	1	1	-
36	742	Selbyville MS	9	3	108	64	-
36	744	Sussex Central MS	20	6	287	178	-
36	745	Indian River ILC	-	-	-	-	-
36	746	Indian River HS	12	3	230	117	-
36	748	Sussex Central HS	19	4	339	172	-
36	749	So DE School of the Arts	1	-	17	8	-
36	750	Ennis School	1	-	-	-	-
		District Totals	**75**	**22**	**1066**	**606**	**6**
Lake Forest							
15	658	Lake Forest East ES	-	-	17	14	-
15	660	Lake Forest North ES	-	-	26	18	-
15	662	Lake Forest South ES	1	-	58	44	-
15	663	Delaware ECC	-	-	-	-	-
15	664	Chipman MS	9	19	163	114	-
15	665	Lake Forest HS	1	-	151	102	2

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Student Conduct Summary
by District and School for 1999-2000

District Code	School Code	School Name	# of SC Incidents	# of SBE Incidents	# of Suspensions	# of Students Suspended	# of Expulsions
		District Totals	**11**	**19**	**415**	**292**	**2**
Laurel							
16	752	North Laurel ES	-	1	37	23	-
16	753	Dunbar ES	-	-	-	-	-
16	754	Laurel Central MS	8	3	-	-	-
16	755	Laurel IS	1	2	38	24	-
16	756	Laurel HS	10	1	25	24	-
16	765	Western Sussex Academy	-	-	-	-	-
16	781	Laurel ILC	-	-	-	-	-
		District Totals	**19**	**7**	**100**	**71**	**0**
Milford							
18	668	Banneker ES	-	1	13	11	-
18	670	Morris ECC	1	-	1	1	-
18	672	Ross ES	2	18	20	13	-
18	676	Milford MS	3	-	-	-	2
18	678	Milford HS	23	21	174	108	-
		District Totals	**29**	**40**	**208**	**133**	**2**

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Student Conduct Summary
by District and School for 1999-2000

District Code	School Code	School Name	# of SC Incidents	# of SBE Incidents	# of Suspensions	# of Students Suspended	# of Expulsions
New Castle County VoTech							
38	26	Howard HS	11	8	96	83	-
38	66	Hodgson HS	9	1	60	56	-
38	80	Delcastle Technical HS	32	4	189	138	-
		District Totals	**52**	**13**	**345**	**277**	**0**
Polytech							
39	652	Polytech HS	8	2	26	26	2
39	655	Kent ILC	-	-	70	33	-
		District Totals	**8**	**2**	**96**	**59**	**2**
Red Clay Consolidated							
32	203	Positive Learning Center	6	-	247	119	3
32	240	Forest Oak ES	8	1	98	54	-
32	242	Heritage ES	-	-	2	2	-
32	244	Highlands ES	3	2	26	15	1
32	246	Lewis ES	1	-	59	35	-
32	248	Shortlidge ES	2	-	46	28	-
32	250	Linden Hill ES	3	-	11	7	-
32	252	Baltz ES	5	-	371	143	-
32	254	Richardson Park Es	1	2	110	69	-
32	256	Marbrook ES	5	-	112	65	-
32	260	Richey ES	1	-	1	1	-
32	264	Mote ES	-	-	65	29	-
32	266	Warner ES	5	1	83	53	-
32	268	Warner KC	1	-	1	1	-
32	274	duPont (A.I.) MS	10	1	555	238	-
32	276	duPont (H.B.) MS	15	-	489	180	-
32	280	Skyline MS	10	-	257	118	2
32	282	Stanton MS	7	1	285	157	4
32	284	Conrad MS	10	1	741	318	2
32	286	Calloway Sch of Arts	6	1	221	132	-

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Student Conduct Summary
by District and School for 1999-2000

District Code	School Code	School Name	# of SC Incidents	# of SBE Incidents	# of Suspensions	# of Students Suspended	# of Expulsions
32	290	Dickinson HS	20	2	566	284	3
32	292	duPont (A.I.) HS	8	-	542	271	-
32	294	McKean HS	28	4	923	395	19
32	516	Meadowood School	17	-	-	-	-
32	526	Richardson Park ILC	5	-	5	5	-
32	527	Telegraph Road ILC	8	1	172	73	-
		District Totals	**185**	**17**	**5988**	**2792**	**34**
Seaford							
23	759	Seaford Central ES	1	-	7	5	1
23	760	West Seaford ES	3	1	15	12	-
23	761	Seaford KC	-	-	-	-	-
23	762	Douglass IS	8	2	34	28	-
23	764	Seaford MS	19	9	379	169	4
23	766	Seaford HS	15	-	146	86	1
23	768	Sussex Orthopedic Facility	-	-	-	-	-
		District Totals	**46**	**12**	**581**	**300**	**6**
Smyrna							
24	680	Clayton ES	1	-	2	2	-
24	682	Smyrna ES	3	-	14	7	-
24	683	Smyrna KC	-	-	-	-	-
24	684	North Smyrna ES	6	3	136	72	1
24	686	Moore MS	14	1	150	74	2
24	688	Smyrna HS	13	20	435	191	5
		District Totals	**37**	**24**	**737**	**346**	**8**

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Student Conduct Summary
by District and School for 1999-2000

District Code	School Code	School Name	# of SC Incidents	# of SBE Incidents	# of Suspensions	# of Students Suspended	# of Expulsions
Sussex Technical							
40	770	Sussex Tech HS	25	10	69	52	18
		District Totals	**25**	**10**	**69**	**52**	**18**
Woodbridge							
35	701	Alternative School-South	2	1	-	-	-
35	775	Woodbridge MS	4	-	105	65	5
35	776	Woodbridge ES	6	-	127	56	-
35	777	Alternative School-North	1	-	-	-	-
35	778	Woodbridge ECC	-	-	-	-	-
35	780	Woodbridge MS-HS	7	-	128	79	1
		District Totals	**20**	**1**	**360**	**200**	**6**
Charter Schools							
70	295	Charter School of Wilm.	1	2	21	21	-
71	570	Positive Outcomes	-	-	41	18	-
72	571	East Side	-	-	-	-	-
74	573	Campus Community	-	-	-	-	-
78	577	Richard Milburn Academy	-	1	-	-	-
		District Totals	**1**	**3**	**62**	**39**	**0**
Alternative Schools							
12	197	New Beginnings	2	-	-	-	-
12	627	PEAK	2	1	-	-	-
12	647	Because We Care	12	1	-	-	-
50	8	DAPI	-	-	-	-	-
		District Totals	**16**	**2**	**0**	**0**	**0**
		State Total	**2702**	**816**	**56174**	**25984**	**0** **238**

U.S. Department of Education
Office of Educational Research and Improvement (OERI)
National Library of Education (NLE)
Educational Resources Information Center (ERIC)

NOTICE

Reproduction Basis

X	This document is covered by a signed "Reproduction Release (Blanket)" form (on file within the ERIC system), encompassing all or classes of documents from its source organization and, therefore, does not require a "Specific Document" Release form.
	This document is Federally-funded, or carries its own permission to reproduce, or is otherwise in the public domain and, therefore, may be reproduced by ERIC without a signed Reproduction Release form (either "Specific Document" or "Blanket").

EFF-089 (1/2003)

p9031480